Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, PE

SUBJECT: PERU TO SEEK APPROXIMATELY \$250 MILLION IN BOP FINANCING FOR 1977

1. FINANCE MINISTER LUIS BARUA, IN PRIVATE MEETING FEB. 8, WITH WELLS FARGO BANK SENIOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIST JOHN PARKANY (ACCOMPANIED BY ECON OFF), SAID THAT WITHIN A SHORT TIME HE WOULD TRAVEL TO U.S., EUROPE AND JAPAN TO INITIATE PERU'S QUEST FOR ABOUT \$250 MILLION FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS FINANCING FOR 1977. BARUA WAS NOT PRECISE ON TIMING FOR HIS TRIP, BUT HE GAVE IMPRESSION THAT IT WOULD BE WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS. HE INDICATED THAT PERU WOULD FOLLOW SAME BASIC GAME PLAN IT USED IN 1976 BOP ENDEAVOR, MEETING FIRST WITH COMMERCIAL BANK STEERING GROUP IN NEW YORK (WITH POSSIBLE SIDE TRIP TO SAN FRANCISCO) AND THEN GOING TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. MANAGER OF LOCAL CITIBANK BRANCH HAS TOLD US THAT BANCO DE LA NACION GENERAL MANAGER HERNAN BARRETO WILL PLAY THE LEADING ROLE IN THIS YEAR'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMMERCIAL BANKS THAT CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT SANTISTEVAN PLAYED IN 1976. HE OPINED THAT SINCE U.S. BANKERS KNOW SANTISTEVAN BETTER THAN BARRETO AND THUS WOULD PREFER TO DEAL WITH HIM, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SANTISTEVAN MAY HAVE TO JOIN IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AGAIN THIS YEAR TO ENSURE THEIR SUCCESS.

3. RE DRAWDOWN OF SECOND TRANCHE OF THE \$210 MILLION OBTAINED IN THE U.S. IN 1976, BARUA TOLD PARKANY IT WOULD TAKE PLACE ON FEBRUARY 21 WHILE SANTISTEVAN SAID FFBRUARY 25.

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS RATHER EARLY IN THE YEAR FOR GOP TO SEEK GOP FINANCING. VARIOUS EVENTS, SUCH AS FAILURE OF BARUA TO MAKE PUBLIC PRESENTATION ON GOP ECONOMIC POLICY DURING JANUARY AS EXPECTED, AS CONTRASTED WITH FORTHRIGHT PRE-SENTATION OF PERU'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO BUSINESSMEN AT AREQUIPA (NOVEMBER 21), GIVES RISE TO HYPOTHESIS THAT GROSS RESERVE POSITION OF YEAR-END 1976 WAS UNCOMFORTABLY LOW. WE SUSPECT THAT DURING FIRST HALF 1977 GOP WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE BOLSTER-ING GROSS RESERVE POSITION BY ALL AVAILABLE MEANS, I.E. SWAP DEALS AND BORROWINGS AGAINST NEW CREDIT PACKAGE. WE BELIEVE SINE QUA NON FOR CONTINUED ACCESS TO THREE-TO-SIX-MONTH TRADE FINANCING (A POOL OF CREDIT POSSIBLY AS LARGE AS \$500 MILLION) IS MAINTENANCE GROSS FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION BY CENTRAL BANK IN EXCESS \$250 MILLION; OTHERWISE FOREIGN COMMERCIAL BANKS ENGAGED ONLY IN THIS TYPE OF FINANCING WILL VIEW PERU AS AN EXCESSIVE RISK. DEAN

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